Newport Philatelic Society

Newsletter Spring Second Release: Number 61 April 2020

Introduction:

Dear members, firstly thank you for all of your positive feedback. Encouraged by this I have created a second release which I hope will be equally well received. I have asked some of the members to contribute with their stories on how and what started them on our shared interest of "philately" and I hope you will enjoy reading about them. If you would like to contribute an article or write your story on how you started or why you chose the area you collect, please consider sending me a few lines, and it can be a few as you like, so that I can include it in a future issue. If you have a picture of the stamp, cover or the most important item in your collection that would be even better. I can cope with most formats and if you need any help then please ask. Any other related contributions are always welcomed. If you have any pictures then send them over as it is always great to include some. We have had some email address issues so if you are in contact with a fellow member and they have not heard of this newsletter ask them to contact me at les.ashtonsmith@gmail.com with their current email address. I will also put each newsletter on the society's website at our usual address

https://newportgwentphilatelic.weebly.com/

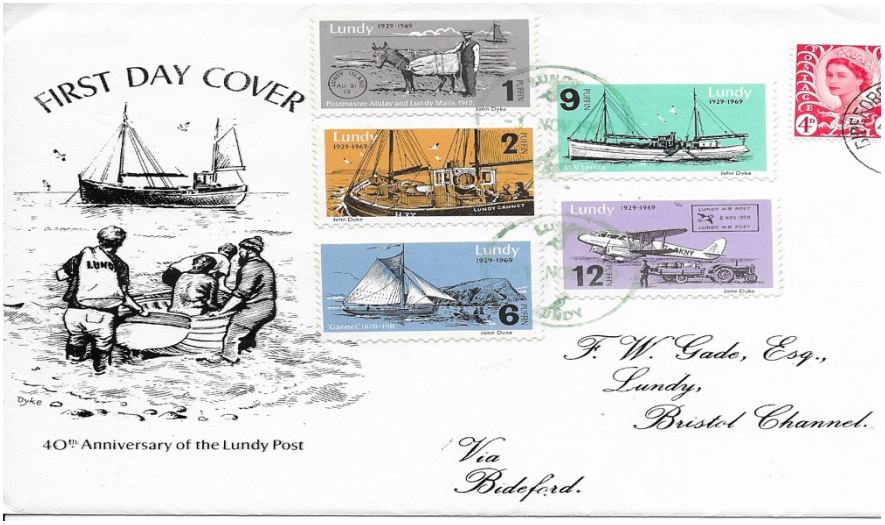
Why I started collecting:

Our first contributor to the "why I starting collecting" is none other than our chairman Roy.

I expect like most of us who collect stamps, mine started when we were in primary school. I would go into town to Smiths, Boots, or any of the leading stationer's and they would have packs of world stamps you could buy for as little 3d. My initial collecting only lasted about two years then the album

was put on the back burner never to be seen again. It was some 30 odd years later that my interest was aroused again when my son came home from school and said he had a project to do in school on British Stamps, and could I help him. So off down to Smiths we went and we bought a GB Stamps album and for the next twelve months we put a collection together on Mint GB. After he submitted his project, he had no further interest in stamps, so I carried on developing the collection and then starting collecting GB FDC.

After a couple of years of collecting GB I had to take my wife over the Bristol Royal Infirmary for allergy tests, even 30 years ago it was almost impossible to get a parking space by the hospital but on this occasion, I managed to find a space at the top of Christmas Steps. After she came out of the hospital, we decided to leave the car where it was and go down Christmas Steps and find a café and have some food. At that time there were at least three stamp shops on Christmas Steps so in we went looking through the GB stocks. We were looking through covers and Janice found a couple of covers and said these look nice where are the stamps from? Looking at the cover they had these strange stamps of Puffins on from Lundy Island, I did not know then, that Lundy produced their own stamps.



My First Lundy Purchase.

The next day I called into Caldicot Library to see if I could find information on Lundy Stamps, but could not find a thing. Two weeks later I was at a stamp fair in Swindon asking one of the dealers if he had any Lundy stamps. As I was asking him, I was tapped on shoulder by a man standing behind me asking if I collected Lundy. I told him that I was new to collecting Lundy and knew nothing about it, he explained to me that there was a collector’s club and also

a catalogue but they were sold out. He asked for my address and said he would send me a photo-copy of the catalogue, which he did a week later. Now over 30 years later myself and Tom Baker, the “man” from the stamp fair, are very close friends and keep in regular contact not only about our interest in Lundy but on lots more besides.

Remember this event?:

We were entertained by a postal and social history journey of Tristan de Cunha. A varied and knowledgeable display with anecdotes of the actual journey to the island. A fascinating and detailed collection which proved to be a very entertaining evening.

Rumaging?

On a regular basis we are spoilt by Roy and a selection from the “Cover Love” stock of covers. His rummage boxes are the stuff of legend and who can fail to find something which piques the interest? Roy kindly brings a general selection of material and always tries to include items he knows specific members would be interested in. However, it seems to me that the rummage boxes always get the most interest, after all who can resist a bargain? You just never know what might be in there……!

On-Line resources:

Another on-line resource that I use a lot is the “Freestampcatalogue” which can be found here, https://www.freestampcatalogue.com/ ,it is a free to access stamp catalogue associated with a large stamp dealer in Holland “PostBeeld”. I have also recently been pointed towards Rush Stamps, http://www.rushstamps.co.uk/ , who have expanded their on-line shop, they also sell on E-Bay, so another possible source for items and to discover what the current market may be valuing for parts of your collections. Remember if you have any on-line dealers or resources you can share with others please let me know. Other dealers are available!

Regular conclusion:

As a reminder, in this difficult time, we can all help each other to get through it. So, if anyone needs help or just someone to talk to, please let us know and get in touch. The conversation might not be related to stamps! If you feel at all “wordy” then send me that articles or comment which I can share with others. Keep safe and well everyone, and we all look forward to our next society meeting in Newport Civic Centre in more settled times.

Les Ashton-Smith